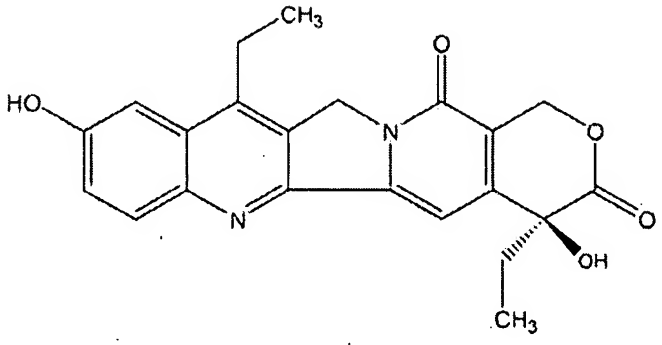
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

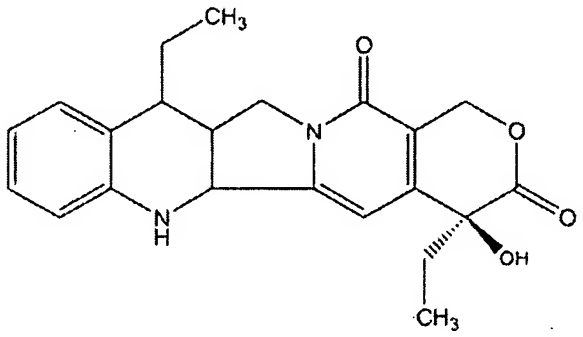
1.-22. (Canceled).

23. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of 7-ethyl-10-hydroxy-camptothecin of formula I



(I)

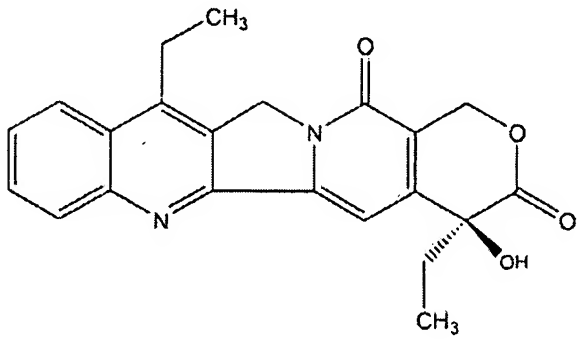
comprising oxidizing 7-ethyl-1,2,6,7-tetrahydrocamptothecin of formula IV



(IV)

with iodobenzene diacetate in acetic acid and water, wherein the amount of acetic acid is 668 to ~~1001 mol per 1 mol of 7-ethyl-1,2,6,7-tetrahydrocamptothecin or~~ 1130 mol per 1 mol of 7-ethyl-1,2,6,7-tetrahydrocamptothecin, and the oxidation is carried out for 5 to 30 minutes.

24. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 23, wherein the starting 7-ethyl-1,2,6,7-tetrahydrocamptothecin is obtained by hydrogenation of 7-ethylcamptothecin of formula II



(II)

in a saturated aliphatic monocarboxylic acid having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, using hydrogen in the presence of a hydrogenation catalyst and a sulfur compound that partly deactivates the hydrogenation catalyst.

25. (Previously Presented) The process according to 24, wherein the saturated aliphatic acid is formic acid, acetic acid or trifluoroacetic acid.

26. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 25, wherein acetic acid is used in an amount of 791 to 1187 mol per 1 mol of 7-ethylcamptothecin.

27. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 24, wherein the sulfur compound that partly deactivates the hydrogenation catalyst is dimethyl sulfoxide.

28. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 27, wherein dimethyl sulfoxide is used in an amount of 0.18 to 0.33 mol per 1 mol of 7-ethylcamptothecin.

29. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 24, wherein the hydrogenation catalyst is a noble metal.

30. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 29, wherein the noble metal is platinum.

31. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 24, wherein the hydrogenation catalyst is platinum on an activated carbon or aluminum oxide carrier.

32. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 31, wherein the platinum is used in an amount of 0.018 to 0.027 mol per 1 mol of 7-ethylcamptothecin, in the form of a hydrogenation catalyst, formed by platinum on an activated carbon with a platinum content 5%.

33. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 24, wherein the hydrogenation is carried out at a pressure from 0.3 to 0.7 Mpa.

34. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 33, wherein the hydrogenation is carried out at a temperature from 45 to 85°C.

35. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 33, wherein the hydrogenation is carried out for 24 to 70 hours.

36. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 23 wherein the amount of iodobenzene diacetate used is 0.99 mol to 1.9 mol per mol of 7-ethyl-1,2,6,7-tetrahydrocamptothecin.

37. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 23 wherein the oxidation is carried out at a temperature ranging from 15 to 30°C.